

Benjamin and John Hirst Letters

Overview of the Collection

Creator: Thomas F. Burpee Post #71

Dates: 1862-1865

Abstract: This contains letters written by the Hirst brothers during their time in service with the 14th Connecticut Infantry Regiment and sent to family and friends about their experiences.

Quantity: Two boxes.

Accession: 1909.001

Language: The records are in English.

Biographical Note

Benjamin and John Hirst were born and resided in Vernon, Connecticut. Ben enlisted on July 16, 1862 as a Sergeant and was mustered into Company D of the 14th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on August 20, 1862. After being wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, Ben was unable to return to his unit and was eventually transferred into the 52nd Company, Veteran Reserve Corps, 2nd Battalion on April 28, 1864. He was then discharged due to disability on July 9, 1865. John Hirst had enlisted on July 20, 1862 as a Private and was also mustered into Company D of the 14th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on August 20, 1862. John served throughout the Civil War with the 14th until he was mustered out on May 31, 1865 in Alexandria, VA.

Scope and Content

The Letters are separated into two series, one for each brother beginning with Ben Hirst. Content within the letters covers the day-to-day life as a soldier during the Civil War; the marches, battles, dealing with the elements, sending pay back home but also needing money for goods, sending news back home about those wounded and/or killed, and much more.

Series 1: Benjamin Hirst Letters, 1862-1863. This begins with journal papers after Ben was mustered in on August 8, 1862 until his first letter on August 30 to his wife Sarah. The letters then span from August 1862 through July 1863 and one letter from October 1863. Arranged chronologically.

Series 2: John Hirst Letters, 1863-1865. John's letters begin in July of 1863 and continue through each month until May 1865. Arranged chronologically.

Arrangement

Series 1: Benjamin Hirst Letters, 1862-1863

Series 2: John Hirst Letters, 1863-1865

Restrictions on Access and Use

Please contact the Museum if you wish to view the Collection and review the hours of operation. Food and drink are prohibited when using the Collection. Only one box at a time is available to be requested and if notes are to be taken, a pencil must be used unless it is an electronic device (computer, cellphone, etc.). Collection materials must be handled with care and will be reviewed with you prior to using the Collection. **Do not rearrange or repair the items.** If an item appears out of order or is in need of repair, please inform a member of the staff. Information regarding photocopies, print-outs, and publications using our materials is listed under “Rules and Restrictions” on the Library home page.

Related Material

Thomas F. Burpee Post #71 Collection

Processing Information

Processed by the Archivist, Wayne Buckmir, in November 2022.

Index Terms

Subjects:

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Connecticut--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Postal service.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Casualties.
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment, 14th (1862-1865)
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment, 14th (1862-1865). Company D
United States. Army. Delaware Infantry Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)
United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 108th (1862-1865)
United States. Army. Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 130th (1862-1863)
Bull Run, 2nd Battle of, Va., 1862.
Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.
Fredericksburg, Battle of, Fredericksburg, Va., 1862.
Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.
Adams Express Company
Yankee Doodle (Song)

Places:

Rockville (Conn.)
Hartford (Conn.)
Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)
Arlington Heights (Arlington, Va.)
Harrisburg (Pa.)
Baltimore (Md.)
Washington (D.C.)
Alexandria (Va.)
Sharpsburg (Md.)

Fredericksburg (Va.)

Gettysburg (Pa.)

Persons:

Hirst, Benjamin, 1828-1909.

Hirst, John, 1836-1908.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885.

McDowell, Irvin, 1818-1885.

Document Types:

Correspondence

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Letters were transferred over to the Alden Skinner Camp #45, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1929 from the Thomas F. Burpee Post #71.

Container List

Series 1. Benjamin Hirst Letters, 1862-1863

	Box	Folder
	1	
1862		
Journal Entry		1
August		2
September		3
October		4
November		5
December		6
1863		
January		7
February		8
March		9
April		10
May		11
June		12

	Box	Folder
	1	
July		13
October		14
Series 2. John Hirst Letters, 1863-1865		
	2	
1863		
July		1
August		2
September		3
October		4
November		5
December		6
1864		
January		7
February		8
March		9
April		10
May		11
June		12
July		13
August		14
September		15
October		16
November		17
December		18

	Box	Folder
1865	2	
January		19
February		20
March		21
April		22
May		23